

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3937

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 4066

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOB, CE, PK

SUBJ: BHUTTO VISIT TO SRI LANKA

REF: COLOMBO 4012

SUMMARY: DESPITE AWKWARD START (REFTEL), THREE
DAY VISIT TO SRI LANKA BY PAKISTANI PRIME
MINISTER BHUTTO, DEC 16-19, WAS MARKED BY WARMTH AND
FRIENDLINESS REFLECTING STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THESE TWO
NEIGHBORS. INTERESTS SEEMED TO BE FOCUSED IN DIFFERENT
DIRECTIONS, HOWEVER, AS BHUTTO CONCENTRATED ON REGIONAL
ISSUES IN HIS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UTTERNANCES WHILE
CEYLONESE SEEMED MORE INTERESTED IN BILATERAL, PARTICULARLY
TRADE, ISSUES. BHUTTO PUT FORWARD
PROPOSAL FOR "INDIAN OCEAN REGIME", APPARENTLY SOME TYPE
OF REGIONAL COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENT POINTED TOWARD
MAKING AREA A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE. PROPOSAL STILL TO BE
PUT INTO FINAL FORM AND SUBJECT TO SUGGESTIONS AND NEGOTIA-
TIONS. BHUTTO ASKED THAT BANGLADESH BE LEFT ALONE TO SOLVE
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ITS OWN PROBLEMS AND EXPRESSED HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT

INDIA AS DOMINANT POWER IN AREA OR TO ACCEPT HEGOMONY BY ANY POWER. CEYLONSE WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PAKISTANI COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE ALL PURCHASES OF TEA IN SRI LANKA, BHUTTO DID STATE, HOWEVER, THAT PAKISTAN, WHICH HAS BECOME MAJOR EXPORT MARKET FOR CEYLON TEA, WOULD CONTINUE TO BUY IN "LARGE QUANTITIES". END SUMMARY.

1. PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA DEC 16-19 WAS MARKED BY CONSIDERABLE WARMTH AND APPRECIATION IN PRESS AND BY PUBLIC. OFFICIALLY, HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH ATMOSPHERE WAS GOOD, OVERALL IMPRESSION IS THAT TWO SIDES WERE ON DIFFERENT WAVE LENGTHS. BHUTTO CONCENTRATED ON REGIONAL MATTERS WHILE CEYLONESE WERE MORE MUTED AND WERE OSTENSIBLY MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN BILATERAL QUESTIONS. CEYLONSE ATTITUDE IN PART ATTRIBUTABLE TO DESIRE NOT TO OFFEND INDIAN SENSITIVITIES.

2. DURING THREE DAY VISIT THERE WAS USUAL EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL BANQUETS. BHUTTO ADDRESSED CEYLONESE LEGISLATURE AND BANDARANAIKE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, MET WITH MUSLIM COMMUNITY, ATTENDED RECEPTION BY SRI LANKA-PAKISTAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY AND ANOTHER RECEPTION BY MAYOR OF COLOMBO AND GAVE PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

3. FOLLOWING ARE MAJOR POINTS THAT EMERGED IN COMMUNIQUE AND OTHER REMARKS BY BHUTTO: REGIONAL AFFAIRS: PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER CALLED FOR AN "INDIAN OCEAN REGIME" DURING ADDRESS AT SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES. REGIME WOULD CONSIST OF INDIAN OCEAN LITTORALS AND WOULD GIVE CONCRETE SHAPE AND EFFECT TO SRI LANKA'S INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE (IOZP) PROPOSAL. UNDER REGIME, LITTORAL STATES WOULD MAKE COMMITMENT TO JOINT SECURITY PROGRAM AND ABSTAIN FROM DEVELOPMENT, PURCHASE OR UTILISATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AT PRESS CONFERENCE BHUTTO STATED THAT "INDIAN OCEAN REGIME" PROPOSAL WAS NOT FIRM AND WAS OPEN TO DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION. SOURCE IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA) TOLD US THAT REGIME PROPOSAL IS FURTHER ATTEMPT BY PAKISTAN TO OBTAIN MULTILATERAL RENUNCIATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SOUTH ASIA, PLOY OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT INDIA. PAKISTANIS TOLD MDFA
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OFFICIALS THAT ALTHOUGH INDIA HAS OFFERED TO GIVE BILATERAL GUARANTEE NOT TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, PAKISTAN IS AFRAID SUCH ASSURANCE WHEREAS MULTILATERAL DECLARATION MIGHT HAVE STRONGER DETERRENT EFFECT ON INDIANS.

4. INDIA/BANGLADESH: IN ADDITION TO REMARKS THAT BANGLADESH SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE, MADE DURING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEECH (REFTEL), BHUTTO ALSO EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION

IN BILATERAL TALKS THAT INDIA WOULD INTERVENE DIRECTLY IN BANGLADESH, ACCORDING TO MDFA SOURCE. BHUTTO ALSO INDICATED CONCERN OVER WHAT HE ALLEGED WERE SOVIET/INDIAN/AFGHANI EFFORTS TO CREATE TROUBLE IN NORTHWEST FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN ALTHOUGH SAME SOURCE SAID BHUTTO SEEMED MUCH MORE ASSURED OF HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL POSITION THAN HE HAD WHEN PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE HAD VISITED PAKISTAN LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO. BHUTTO REPORTEDLY ALSO TOLD CEYLONESE HE WAS PERTURBED WITH SLOWNESS IN WHICH RELATIONS WERE DEVELOPING WITH INDIA AND THAT HE FELT IT MIGHT BE MORE USEFUL TO BRING OUT BILATERAL ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL OFORA RATHER THAN KEEP THEM IN BILATERAL CONTEXT WHICH HAD UP TONOW BEEN DONE IN DEFERENCE TO INDIAN WISHES. BHUTTO MADE CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT ACCEPT POSITION THAT INDIA SHOULD BE DOMINANT POWER IN AREA AND REJECTED HEGEMONY BY ANY COUNTRY.

5. MEMBERSHIP IN NON-ALIGNED: ACCORDING TO MDFA BHUTTO TOLD CEYLONESE HE WISHED NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT EVERY SUCCESS BUT NOTED PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH NON-*)8&,3\$:97,5483 -43 3;3, ?35534 5#-, 43)-589, #80 -.9,& .3.?34 COUNTRIES OF NON-ALIGNED. CEYLONESE TELL US BHUTTO WOULD LIKE INVITATION TO JOIN NON-ALIGNED GROUP BUT WILL NTO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP KNOWING THAT INDIANS, WHO ARE ON NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE, WOULD BE ABLE TOBLOCK APPLICATION. AT HIS BANQUET IN HONRO OF PRIME MIN BANDARANAIKE, BHUTTO STATED PUBLICALLY THAT GOP WAS NOT INTERESTED IN OBSERVER STATUS. MRS BANDARANAIKE AT SAME FUNCTION THANKED BHUTTO FOR THE ASSISTANCE (JNNAMED) WHICH HE HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE FOR NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT.

6. BILATERAL RELATIONS: ONLY AREA OF NERVOUSNESS IN BILATERAL CONTEXT IS CEYLONESE FEAR THAT NORMALIZTION OF
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PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH WILL REDUCE THIER TEA EXPORTS TO PAKISTAN. THESE NOW REPRESENT 16 PERCENT OF SRI LANKA'S TEA EXPORTS MAKING PAKISTAN THE LARGEST IMPORTER OF CEYLO NESE
TEA. CEYLONESE TRIED BUT WERE UNABLE TO GET COMMITMENT FROM BHUTTO THAT PAKISTAN WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPORT ALL ITS TEA FROM SRI LANKA, ACCORDING TO MDFA SOURCE. IN COMMUNIQUE, BHOTTO ACCEPTED LANGUAGE THAT PAKISTAN WILL CONTINUE TO BUY CEYLON TEA IN LARGE QUANTITIES. TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED ON NEED TO DIVERSIFY BILATERAL TRADE AND PAKISTANIS AGREED TO OFFER DEFERRED PAYMENT FACILITIES TO SRI LANKA'S IMPORTS OF PAKISTAN'S MANUFACTURED GOODS.

7. MUCH OF COMMUNIQUE WAS DEVOTED TO TO BILER PLATE ITEMS SUCH AS APPROVAL OF END OF HOSTILITIES IN INDO-CHINA,

APPLAUDING SUCESS OF LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN AFRICA,
COMDEMNATION OF COLONIALISM, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR
ARAB CAUSE, VOWING FAITH IN UNITED NATIONS, NOTING NEED
FOR DISARMAMENT AND BELIEF THAT COORDINATED ACTION BY
DEVELOPING NATIONS IS NEEDED IN ECONOMIC MATTERS.
COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSED COMPLETE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO SIDES
ON ALL THESE ISSUES.

8. COPIES OF COMMUNIQUE BEING POUCHED DEPT AND
ISLAMABAD.
VAN HOLLEN

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